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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN THUNE, a Senator from the State of South Dakota.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today the Senate will be led in prayer by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Clyde P. Thomas, of Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church, in Gaffney, SC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Would you join with me as we pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we humbly come to You today to seek Your guidance knowing we can take only one step at a time. Illuminate each step as only You can, and keep us strong in our path.

O Lord, grant that we live together as people of vision and understanding, as well as promise and peace.

We pray for our President and the Members of this body as they serve our Nation. Encourage and strengthen them with Your power and wisdom. Protect our military and law enforcement men and women. Give comfort to their families and refresh their spirits. Make us mindful of our responsibilities and grateful for our opportunities to do Your will.

We pray this in the Name above every other name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN THUNE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN THUNE, a Senator from the State of South Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. THUNE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, following 30 minutes set aside for morning business, we return to the port security legislation. Yesterday we were able to adopt the McCain rail security amendment, as amended, and today we have scheduled a vote, to begin at noon, on Senator DEMINT's amendment on a national alert system. The vote at noon will be the first vote of the day. Following that vote, the Senate will recess for the weekly policy meetings to occur. For the remainder of the afternoon and evening, we will make further progress on the bill, with additional rollcall votes expected. It is my hope Senators will continue to work with the managers on their amendments, and that will allow us to schedule votes as necessary.

I do want to thank all Senators for participating in yesterday's east front observance of the anniversary of September 11. It was an emotional day across this country, and I was proud to stand with my Senate and House colleagues during that important tribute.

Mr. President, I will be happy to turn to the Democratic leader for any an-

nouncements, but I do have a short statement to make.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I do want to briefly comment on a very short trip I took on Sunday, when I visited Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, along with Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SPECTER.

It was my first visit to the detainee facility there. We received extensive briefings over the course of the day from Admiral Harris and other base administrators. We took that opportunity to tour five of the detainee camps, as well as visit the medical facilities and visit with the health personnel there.

Bottom line, I left there very impressed with the care and the respect our military affords the detainees kept at Guantanamo. As most of my colleagues know who have visited there—and I am glad to report that many have visited there over the last several years—each detainee receives a copy of the Koran. Arrows in each of the detainees' cells point to Mecca. You see arrows throughout the prison grounds. That makes it easier, and it is a reminder that these individuals have that opportunity to practice their faith, with prayer time occurring five times every day, where everything stops, and that time is set aside so that prayer can be offered.

It was interesting from a health standpoint. The meals themselves are nutritious meals. And I looked at a lot of the charts, aggregate charts, and, indeed, detainees gain weight from these meals. They get regular exercise. It might be as much as 2 hours a day—but 1 to 2 hours a day. They receive mail from their families. They visit privately with their lawyers. They have medical care, which again was amazing to me, which is 24/7, acute care as well as preventive care literally 24 hours a day.

When the camp first opened, much of the medical care was centered around

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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